

AGENDA ITEM VI

REQUEST TO OFFER EXISTING ACADEMIC PROGRAM THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

Associate of General Studies – General Studies

STAFF COMMENT

Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures Section 2.12 - Delivery of Academic Programs Through Distance Learning Technologies requires state colleges and universities that propose to offer more than 50% of an existing degree program through distance learning technologies to first seek Board of Regents' approval before submitting a request for authorization through the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The policy states that the following planning and quality issues must be satisfactorily addressed:

Planning

1. Appropriateness to stated role, scope, and mission;
2. Unnecessary program duplication;
3. Consistency with the desegregation Settlement Agreement; and
4. Funding provisions of Academic Affairs Policy 2.4 - Letters of Intent.

Quality

1. Adequacy of necessary infrastructures and resources;
2. Consistent of program design with that offered on campus; and
3. Appropriateness of the curricular format.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Planning Issues

The AGS program is appropriate to the role, scope, and mission of the University. Program duplication is not a relevant issue, and the desegregation Settlement Agreement does not make any provisions for the development of any similar and/or related programs at the State's predominantly black institutions of higher education. No additional state funding will be required to offer the program electronically.

Quality Issues

The Staff asked the institution to provide information on how faculty who will teach in this program have been/will be trained to utilize distance delivery mechanisms. The institution reported that the large majority of faculty have already delivered one or more courses by distance learning technologies. Faculty continually receive training through Southeastern's Center for Faculty Excellence which offers numerous workshops throughout the semester on the use of distance learning for course delivery and enhancement. On going support is provided by the Center as well.

The courses associated with this degree program will be delivered using a combination of compressed video, computer technology, and public broadcasting. Adequate technology is available on campus to offer the program. The content and design of the curriculum via distance learning will replicate that which is already offered on campus.

STAFF SUMMARY

Southeastern Louisiana University has successfully addressed requirements of Academic Affairs Policy 2.12. The staff, therefore, recommends approval of this request.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the request from Southeastern Louisiana University to seek authorization from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to offer the Associate of General Studies through distance learning technologies.